

Application No. 09/876,348
Amendment Dated March 17, 2004
Reply to Office action of December 3, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the Abstract in its entirety and replace with the following rewritten abstract.

-- A recrystallization inhibition method for determining the presence, relative concentration, and or activity of thermal hysteresis proteins by forming a test solution of a proteinaceous composition in a solvent; flash freezing the solution; raising the temperature of the frozen solution to an appropriate annealing temperature that allows for a partial melt, while limiting heterogeneity in ice grain sizes within the solution; maintaining the frozen solution at the annealing temperature for a length of time sufficient to allow for ice recrystallization; monitoring the ice crystal grain size changes over time; and determining the presence of functional thermal hysteresis proteins in the solution given the retention of significantly smaller ice crystal grain sizes relative to at least one control solution. --